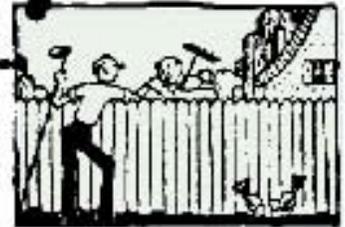




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
 2008, Volume 66, Number 10



❖ OCTOBER SPEAKER ❖

Peter Olin
 Recently Retired Arboretum Director

Peter Olin began as a landscape architect after receiving a Master's Degree from the U. of Massachusetts. He worked in Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut in that field, and taught landscape architecture at the U. of Massachusetts and the U. of Minnesota. In 1984 he was named Interim Director of the MN Landscape Arboretum and stepped up to become the Director the following year.

When Peter took the helm, the Arboretum was struggling to achieve a membership of 4,000 and bring 100,000 people through the gate annually. Today the membership is at 19,000 and the annual gate number is 288,000 visitors.

During Peter's tenure the Arboretum has also grown in visibility, donations, volunteers and sheer impressiveness for its beautiful garden spaces and buildings. Today's Arboretum encompasses 17 model landscapes, 48 plant collections and 32 display

(Olin cont. on pg. 11)

October Dinner Meeting: Tuesday October 14th, 2008

Gathering and Conversation	-----6:00 pm
Dinner	-----6:30 pm
Business Meeting	----- Approx. 7:00 pm
Program	----- Approx. 7:30 pm

Dinner Reservations

Permanent reservations for the dinner meeting are in effect. Reservations or cancellations are required by

the Friday before the meeting. Call or e-mail Carole Anne Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation.

Thoughts from the Prez

by *Larry Larson*



The following bit of intrigue concerns a day in the life of the inveterate gardener Lazlo Lunkin, the only dirt scratcher in Minnetonka who refuses to acknowledge the summer is nearly over:

Setup: A quiet September 25th evening. Lazlo and his wife Rita Mae are watching the weather forecast on television.

Weatherman: And it looks like frost is on the way . . .

Lazlo: (Looking up from his gardening magazine). What did he say?

Rita Mae: I think he said frost . . .

Lazlo: FROST! ARE YOU KIDDING! FROST!!! It's only September 20!

Rita Mae: It's the 25th dear . . .

Lazlo: Yeah, yeah, 25th. Does he realize what he's saying? How many flowers he's killing . . .

Weatherman: In low lying areas, it will reach temperatures down to 26 . . .

Lazlo: (Standing, pointing at the t.v.). 26!!! Jumpin' Geehosaphats, that'll kill my dahlias! (Turning to face Rita Mae). Are we a low lying area?

Rita Mae: I don't know dear . . .

Lazlo: Well, think!!! I've got to know!

Rita Mae: Well then, maybe you should look outside . . .

Lazlo: Outside? What the heck . . .

Rita Mae: Open the door. Look outside. Does it look like we're in a low lying area?

Lazlo: Well, the backyard is lower than the frontyard, that's for sure. Gee whilakers, my dahlias are in the low lying area!

Rita Mae: You'd better cover the flowers in the backyard.

Lazlo: It's dark outside!

Rita Mae: Yes, dear. You'd better get started.

Down the stairs Lazlo ran, mumbling to himself the entire way. Where are the blinkety blank blankets anyhow, he wondered. Geez, it's only September 22! How could that weatherman do this to me? Lazlo stood and stared at his beautiful dahlias. He couldn't bare the thought of losing them this early in the year. It seemed like they just started blooming!

Finding the blankets in the corner, Lazlo flung them outside. He would just cover the dahlias, he decided. The heck with the rest of the flowers.

An hour later, he was done with the dahlias. He had quite a few blankets left. He looked at the other flowers. What the heck, might as well cover them, too.

Two hours later, he was finally done. With the last of the blankets, his winter coat and old pajamas, bath towels and old sweatshirts, shower curtain and long underwear, he had covered every cotton pickin' flower in the back, and front, yard.

Rita Mae: (Waking up when Lazlo stumbled into the room). Where have been all this time, dear?

Lazlo: Covering flowers! Where the heck do you think I've been! We're in a low lying area, remember.

Rita Mae: It must be that new cable t.v. system . . .

Lazlo: What are talking about?

Rita Mae: You were watching the wrong channel, dear. That channel was in Duluth. There are lots of low lying areas in Duluth . . .

Lazlo: Duluth!!!



A Note from the Editor

We have had a pretty nice fall this year, haven't we? My dahlias have been beautiful, especially a couple of new ones that I got from Jerry Shannon at the spring plant sale. And hummingbirds have been hanging around the garden for the past few days, living it up on the old red cannas and remnants of salvias, phlox and monarda in the garden.

But it's dark when the alarm goes off in the morning, and it's dark way too early in the evenings, and we know that autumn is upon us.

There are things that I like about autumn, like the crisp feel of the air and the different kind of light in the sky. And, of course, the Honeycrisp apples. But it also reminds me that I'll need to pull out the old sheets in a desperate attempt to extend the growing season, and that digging up cannas, callas, dahlias, fairy lilies, voodoo lilies, glads and elephant ears is just around the corner. And then, before we know it, it's time for the Holiday Party once again, and we'll be electing new officers and a new board in no time.

I'm looking forward to hearing Peter Olin talk about his years at the Arboretum. (And I'm also wondering how he's enjoying his retirement.) See you soon!

Mary



Dahlia in Mary's garden

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Oct. 14	LHC	Peter Olin: Years at the Arb.
Nov. 11	LHC	Monrovia: New Plants
Dec. 2nd	LHC	Holiday Party

LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis)

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



Pictures from the September Meeting



Speaker Brenda Wickenhauser
from Bailey's Nursery



Sharla introduces a new member



ARBORETUM: THE EARLY DAYS

Jerry Shannon gave us a copy of an article by Dr. Leon Snyder about the history of the Arboretum from the May, 1976 issue of the Minnesota Horticulturist. We have permission from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society to use all or part of the article in the Spray. The whole article is too long to include in the Spray, but here are a few quotes and a quick synopsis of the early years at the Arboretum.

“The idea for the Arboretum started with a group in the Men’s Garden Club of Minneapolis. This group, interest in unusual trees and shrubs, had started a test planting in a member’s back yard. Frustrated by a lack of space, the men went to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and requested that the Society appoint a committee to explore the possibility of acquiring land for the purpose of developing a statewide Arboretum.

“An ad hoc committee of Society members met on January 28, 1955 to discuss this request. Present were Leon C. Snyder, temporary chairman, Archie H. Flack, Vincent K. Bailey, Richard Stadtherr, Walter Beneditz, Mrs. William Whiteford, Mrs. E.J. Koempel and E.M. Hunt, secretary. It was agreed to request that the Society appoint an Arboretum committee with Archie Flack as chairman.” Note: Archie Flack had been president of the Club in 1954, and was President of MSHS at the time, according to Jerry.

During the course of 1955, the Arboretum committee got approval to proceed from the University, and began fundraising and site searches. The committee decided that a location near the Fruit Breeding Farm

would be ideal.

In June of 1956, the committee learned that Dr. Berens was willing to sell 160 acres of land for the purpose of developing an arboretum. The committee took an option on the land with money provided by Mrs. Grace B. Dayton. The Minnetonka Garden Club then began fundraising and had \$35,000 for the initial purchase by summer of 1957. The Hill Family Foundation provided \$60,000 over a 5-year period, and development could begin.

According to Dr. Snyder, “The original land and \$40,000 was turned over to the University of Minnesota on February 6, 1958 after the Minnesota State Horticultural Society had received assurance from the Board of Regents that the development and directions of the Arboretum would be a part of the ongoing research and educational program in the Department of Horticultural Science. The Society agreed to continue its efforts to solicit financial aid to help support the developing Arboretum.”

And so it began. In 1958 a gravel road and some plantings went in. In 1959, an entrance gate was built with funds from the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club. And landscape design began. In 1962, Mrs. Charlotte Ordway provided funds to build a picnic shelter. Also in 1962 and 1963, more land was purchased with funds raised by the St. Paul Garden Club and other donations. And a machine shed went up. In 1966 through 1968, more land was acquired, bringing the total to 720 acres.

In 1970, Dr. Snyder stepped down as head of the Horticultural Science Department to become the full-time director of the Arboretum. And the Arboretum Foun-

(Arboretum cont. on pg. 9)



Perennials in the Mountains

PhilSmith

When I retired in '93, I moved to a home in the mountains of Montana (Big Sky Ski Resort, about 15 miles from the northwest corner of Yellowstone Park), and a home on Bonita Beach in Florida. I spend about 4-1/2 months in Montana and the balance in Florida.

I garden at both places. However, I regret that there are some perennials which I enjoyed in Minnesota that I cannot grow at either garden, such as hostas, daylilies, mums and asters. The season is too short in Montana and there is not a sufficient cold spell in Florida.

Perennials have always been of interest to me and I now have some 30 different perennials in my Montana garden which are doing well. The only annuals I planted this year were several wave petunias in my deck pots. Snapdragons, alyssum, stocks and pansies also do well, although pansies are really a perennial and usually live about 5 years.

Although the short season is a problem for some perennials, as noted above, the normal early snow cover



Creeping Thyme on flagstones

is a blessing for those perennials which tolerate the short season. Our growing season (mornings above 30 deg.) has been about 7 weeks, but in the last couple of years has been 8-9 weeks. This year we had a good frost on June 14 and two mornings of 27 deg. the 2nd week of August. However, all my plants still look nice as I write this on September 3rd. It is my belief that in this climate with normally cool mornings of about 35 to 38 deg., the plants develop some type of anti-freeze. I seem to recall that several years ago, the U of M Hort. Research Center did some testing in this regard, but I cannot remember the details.

The perennials I have now in Montana include Arabis, Aubretia, Alyssum saxatile, Aquilegia, Achillea, creeping thyme, 3 varieties of campanula, Dianthus, Edelweiss, Digitalis, Delphiniums, Gaillardia, true Geraniums, Echinacea, Goldenrod goldenmosa, Malva, Monkshood, Monarda, Oenothera, Nepeta mussini, 3 varieties of Penstemon, Poppies, Pulmonaria, Pansies,

(Montana cont. on page 7)



Alyssum saxatile gold



(Montana cont. from page 6)

sedums, Salvia superba, Rudbeckia, Shasta Daisies, Saponaria, and Veronica.

In Minnesota, I would suggest growing various fall blooming perennials to extend the season. Some suggestions are Mums, Asters, Echinacea, Rudbeckia, and Sedum Autumn Joy. The flowers of this sedum turn a nice red color in the autumn.

Finally, I would encourage any interested members to visit me at either Florida or Montana.



Mixed planting



Front perennial garden



Montana garden pests



Princess Caroline delphinium





MGCM Holiday Party Reminder

Save Tuesday December 2, 2008 - the first Tuesday.

Relax and mingle at our annual Holiday Party. Share our Joy!

Hours: 5 - 9 pm

Social Time, Silent Auction Bidding, Punch and Hors d'oeuvres.

Catered Dinner: Served at 6:40 pm.

Awards Ceremony.

Entertainment.

Publicity and Reservation Form will be in the November Garden Spray.

Start to Plan for Donations to the Silent Auction:

If you have questions or this is your first year attending the MGCM Holiday Party, please call or e-mail Elaine.

Early information about your items and bid minimum is appreciated, too.

E-mail: elspiegs@comcast.net

Phone: 952-927-9539 – tell me how you prefer response (e-mail or phone)

Balance as of 9-20-08

Checking 3,700.00

CD 5,662.00



Dues Increase

At the MGCM board meeting on September 2, the board recommended a dues increase from the current \$10.00 per year to \$20.00, effective Jan. 1, 2009. This increase is deemed necessary because total expenses are exceeding revenues by more than \$2,000 per year. While the increase will only raise an additional \$1,000, the board will look for ways to cut costs while implementing new ideas for fund raising. This will be a challenge for the future!

All club members will have an opportunity to vote on this proposal. A voting box will be placed on a table near the entrance for everyone to drop their ballots into. Note: you cannot mail your ballots! All ballots must be hand delivered to the meeting! A 41 member quorum must be present to certify the vote. A simple majority of the votes cast will win the day.

The board and its president feel it is important to keep our club financially solvent for next year as well as into the future. Please vote yes on this very important question. Thank you!

Larry Larson, president

(Arboretum cont. from pg. 5)

ation (of which our member Phil Smith served as president for several years) was formed.

In 1974, the new education and research building was completed and the staff moved in. With the new building complete, the “face” of the Arboretum as we knew it for many years was in place.



MGCM Board Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2008

The September 2, 2008 Board meeting was called to order by Larry Larson. All Directors and Board members were present except for Margaret Landry.

President Larry Larson suggested the Club consider a way to honor the memory of long time member Todd Bachman. Discussion by the Board included possibly working with other garden clubs he was involved in to do a memorial or someway to include a memorial in the Trial Gardens at Lyndale Park. Sharla Aaseng made a motion that the Club does a memorial in the memory of Todd Bachman, Fred Glasoe and Clyde Thompson in a way to be determined. Elizabeth Hamilton seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board.

Sharla Aaseng and Larry Larson expressed concern to the Board about the Club continuing to run at a budget deficit and that the \$15,000 in CDs the Club once had was now dwindled to \$5,000 in CDs. The annual dues are only covering about 30% of the Clubs current fixed expenses. The Board discussed ways to cut Club expenses and increase revenue. Dave McKeen made a motion to look into ways that the Club could balance its income and expenses, including by raising dues. Denise Rust seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board. Details of the Club's fixed expenses will be presented to the membership at the September 9th meeting for a membership vote to raise dues for 2009, as proposed by the Board, at the October 7th meeting.

Sharla Aaseng announced her resignation as Membership Secretary effective January 2009. Her organization and enthusiasm will be missed on the Board. Sharla has arranged to have the MSHS bill their membership direct for 2009 and beyond.

The Board wants to congratulate Kay Wolfe and her committee on the "Gala in the Garden" on July 22nd. It was a great celebration of the Club's contributions and years of service to the Trial Gardens at Lyndale Park and they were able to have the celebration using only half of their budget.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 4th at 7:00 PM at Elaine Spiegel's.

(cont. on page 11)



(Olin cont. from pg. 1)

model landscapes, 48 plant collections and 32 display gardens, has seen the expansion of the Andersen Horticultural Library and the Marion Andrus Learning Center for children, and has welcomed the addition of the 45,000 square-foot Oswald Visitor Center in 2005.

Prior to Peter's tenure the Arboretum and the Horticultural Research Center (formerly the U. of MN Fruit Breeding Farm) worked independently and sometimes in competition; today, they work as partners and are celebrating their 50-year and 100-year anniversaries, respectively. This has given the general public more access to knowledge about the research and to the understanding of plant breeding and has provided better access to Minnesota hardy plant varieties for the home garden.

Innovations at the Arboretum in recent years have included huge growth of programming aimed at families, a therapeutic horticulture program, and inclusion of research and models of conservation and sustainability research.

Peter has received numerous citations for his service, most recently induction into the Minnesota Nursery Landscape Association Hall of Fame for serving both the Association and the landscape industry. We welcome Peter, a MGCM member, as our featured speaker as he reflects on his tenure as Arboretum Director and presents a not-to-be-missed collection of Arboretum views.



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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Club Officers:

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7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park
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